

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SP-03 CIEP-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 TRSY-11 HEW-08 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 L-03 DRC-01 /140 W  
----- 014672

R 221343Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6858

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 1648

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ECON, HO

SUBJ: HONDURAN MINIMUM WAGE DECREE

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 595

1. SAN PEDRO SULA DAILY LA PRENSA OF TODAY'S DATE PUBLISHED THE LONG AWAITED MINIMUM WAGE DECREE WITH AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF MAY 1. AN OFFICIAL OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR CONFIRMED THAT DATE.

2. THE DECREE HAS ONLY SLIGHT CHANGES FROM DRAFT DESCRIBED REFTEL. BASIC DIFFERENCES ARE THAT DECREE REMOVES LA CEIBA FROM THE AREAS TO HAVE A 4 LEMPIRA MINIMUM DAILY WAGE AND WIPES OUT THE 3.5 LEMPIRA WAGE EARLIER SLATED FOR PUERTO CORTES, TELA, EL PROGRESO AND CHOLUTECA. THE DECREE PROVIDES:

A. 4 LEMPIRA (1 LEMPIRA EQUALS U.S.\$50) DAILY WAGE FOR EMPLOYEES IN MANUFACTURING, COMMERCE, TRANSPORTATION, UNCLASSIFIED

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WAREHOUSING, FINANCE WITHIN THE JURISDICTIONS OF THE

CENTRAL DISTRICT (TEGUCIGALPA) AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF  
SAN PEDRO SULA;

B. 3 LEMPIRA DAILY WAGE FOR SAN PEDRO SULA WORKERS  
INVOLVED IN CONSTRUCTION, HOME INDUSTRY, OR SMALL INDUSTRY  
OR COMMERCE. SMALL BUSINESSES ARE THOSE WITH FIVE OR  
FEWER EMPLOYEES;

C. 4 LEMPIRA MINIMUM WAGE FOR DOCK WORKERS, STEVEDORES,  
MINERS, PETROLEUM WORKERS, RAILROADERS AND EXPORT BANANA  
WORKERS;

D. 3 LEMPIRAS DAILY WAGE FOR WORKERS IN FIELDS LISTED  
IN (A) AND (B) BUT IN GEOGRAPHIC AREAS NOT DESCRIBED;

E. AGRICULTURAL WORKERS WILL RECEIVE A 2 LEMPIRA  
MINIMUM WHICH WILL GO TO L.2.50 IN ONE YEAR;

F. APPRENTICES WILL EARN ONE HALF OF LISTED MINIMUM;

G. EXEMPTION FOR DOMESTICS AND EMPLOYEES OF CONFIDENCE;

H. PROGRESSIVE FINES FROM 100 LEMPIRAS TO 25,000 LEMPIRAS;

I. MANAGEMENT MUST PROVE JUST CAUSE IN CASE OF DISMISSAL  
OF ANY COVERED EMPLOYEE.

3. ALTHOUGH CURRENT STATISTICS ARE EITHER UNTRUSTWORTHY  
OR UNAVAILABLE, THE LAST PUBLISHED STATISTICS (FOR YEAR 1972)  
INDICATE MOST CATEGORIES OF WORK ALREADY HAVE HIGHER WAGE  
THAN THE NEW MINIMUM. THE PUBLISHED STATISTICS MAY BE  
MISLEADING, HOWEVER. LABMIN FONSECA HAS TOLD LABOFF THAT  
TEGUCIGALPA DAILY AVERAGE IS 1.85 LEMPIRAS AND PROMISED  
A COPY OF MINISTRY PROJECTION OF NUMBERS OF AFFECTED  
WORKERS. PROJECTION FIGURES WILL BE FORWARDED WHEN  
AVAILABLE.  
SANCHEZ

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## Message Attributes

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